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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER U.S. NAVY COMMANDER SENTENCED FOR INTERSTATE TRAVEL TO
MEET MINOR FOR SEX**

BALTIMORE Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that William David Sharer, age 43, of Alexandria, Virginia was sentenced today by the Honorable Andre M. Davis to 37 months incarceration, 3 years of supervised release with mental health treatment and a \$2,500 fine, based on his travel across state lines with intent to have sex with a minor on July 12, 2002. Sharer was a Commander in the U.S. Navy and stationed at the Pentagon. The court also required that he register as a sex offender.

According to the plea agreement presented to the court, on July 9, 2002 a Maryland state police officer operating undercover entered an Internet chat room entitled "Daughters for Dads" posing as a 12 year old girl named "Sara." While in the chat room, "Sara" was contacted by an individual using the screen name "Flying Around High." "Flying Around High" asked "Sara" how old she was and "Sara" replied that she was 12. He asked for a physical description and "Sara" advised that she was 4'11" and weighed 95 pounds. "Flying Around High" advised that he was 42 years old, and that he loved young ladies her age. He advised that he had been trying to meet a

young lady for sex, but had not had any success.

“Flying Around High” asked if she would meet with him and engage in sexual activity. During this Internet “conversation” and in the four subsequent Internet “conversations,” “Flying Around High” repeatedly asked “Sara” if she would have intercourse with him. He asked “Sara” if she could get to the Columbia Mall around 11:30 a.m. on a school day so that they could go to a nearby motel with a “nice room and a shower.” “Flying Around High” advised “Sara” that they could only meet once “because of our ages.” He suggested meeting on Friday, July 12, 2002-- three days from their initial “conversation”. “Flying Around High” suggested that he would take a “long lunch break” from work. “Flying Around High” also told “Sara” he would bring her a thong in her size as a gift. They agreed to meet by the McDonalds at the Food Court in the Columbia Mall. He then told her his name was Jacob Lamont.

On July 11, 2002, “Flying Around High” advised “Sara” that he could still meet her as planned and asked her to describe what she would be wearing. He advised her that he would be wearing a blue t-shirt and black gym shorts, and driving an aqua blue/green Lincoln. “Flying Around High” reiterated that they would be having sex at a hotel and he would bring her a thong. “Flying Around High” advised that he was attracted to young girls.

On July 12, 2002, as pre-arranged, they had an Internet “chat” prior to meeting at the Columbia Mall. “Flying Around High” confirmed what “Sara” would be wearing and advised her that they would not have much time at the motel because they had to be out by 1:00 p.m. He confirmed that he would meet her at 11:30 a.m.

On July 12, 2002, Sharer left his office at the Pentagon in Alexandria, Virginia and traveled to Columbia, Maryland. He went to the hotel where he had made a reservation. A hotel employee advised that Sharer made the reservation on July 11, 2002 and that Sharer would arrive around 10:00

a.m. or 10:30 a.m. on July 12, 2002. Sharer advised the hotel employee that he only wanted to be charged for one night as he was conducting interviews during the day. The hotel employee agreed to his request as long as he was out by 1:00 p.m.

Sharer arrived at the hotel at 11:35 a.m. on July 12, 2002 advising that he was late because he had gone to one of the hotel's sister properties by mistake. Sharer was dressed in his military khaki uniform. The hotel employee then showed him the room with the entrance close to it that he had requested. Mr. Sharer asked if he could pay in cash and the hotel employee agreed.

At approximately 12:00 noon, Sharer arrived in his aqua blue/green Lincoln at the Columbia Mall outside the McDonalds/food court area wearing a blue t-shirt and black gym shorts. He walked around the mall, exited the mall on two occasions and then re-entered. He was arrested 20 minutes later while exiting the mall.

Investigation revealed that "Flying Around High" was a screen name provided by Yahoo to Wayne David Sharer and that the Internet "conversations" with "Sara" were from his work computer at the Pentagon. Investigation also revealed that the screen name "loves__young_ girls" was listed to Wayne David Sharer under Yahoo.

A search of the hotel room rented by the defendant and his vehicle revealed, among other things, thong panties, a receipt for the panties, and receipts for men's clothing.

Sharer admitted to traveling from Virginia to meet "Sara," that he had discussed having sex with her, and that she said she was 12 years old. He advised investigators that he did not really believe "Sara" was real, and came to the meeting place to see if "Sara" was really a 12 year old girl.

This case was investigated by the Maryland State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bonnie S. Greenberg.